

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY

USMISSION GENEVA

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION NATO

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VIENNA AND GENEVA FOR MBFR AND CSCE

KUALA LUMPUR FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY INGERSOLL

INFO FOR PAOS

1. HIGHLIGHTS THURSDAY PAPERS FRONTPAGED KISSINGER
DENOUNCES OIL EMBARGO; FRIDAY PAPERS FRONTPAGE HEATH CALLS
NEW ELECTION. FRIDAY NYTIMES HAS GELB WASHINGTON REPORT-
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ING VIENNA SIDES ARE FAR APART; FRIDAY BALTSUN HAS AP ON

SCHLESINGER AND NATO; WASHPOST GETLER REPORTS SCHLESINGER PROMISE TO MATCH SOVIETS. THURSDAY NYTIMES HAD LETTER FROM PROXMIER ON NUCLEAR STRATEGY. SOME OTHER COMMENTS.

2. MBFR. NYTIMES GELB SAYS TWO SIDES AT VIENNA HAVE ADVANCED WIDELY DIVERGENT PROPOSALS, MAKING EARLY PROGRESS SEEM HIGHLY UNLIKELY. GELB REPORTS DIPLOMATS AND NIXON ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS HAVE DISCLOSED DETAILS OF THE PROPOSALS ON BOTH SIDES AND THE REASONING BEHIND THEM IN RECENT INTERVIEWS WITH NYTIMES. NATO PROPOSAL, SAYS GELB, WOULD REDUCE ONLY GROUND FORCES NOW TOTALING 770,000 FOR NATO AND 925,000 FOR SOVIET BLOC TO WHAT IS TERMED AN

ILLUSTRATIVE COMMON CEILING OF 700,000 AND WOULD ALSO SPECIFY SOVIET UNITS TO BE REMOVED FROM CENTRAL FRONT, GELB ADDING WARSAW PROPOSAL WOULD REDUCE BOTH GROUND AND AIR MANPOWER BY MORE THAN 15 PERCENT, BRINGING NATO FORCES FROM ONE MILLION TO 820,000 AND WARSAW FROM 1.3 MILLION TO 1.15 MILLION. GELB CITES US OFFICIALS AND DIPLOMATS SAYING NATO GOAL IS SITUATION WHERE NEITHER SIDE COULD LAUNCH A SUCCESSFUL GROUND ATTACK, WHEREAS WARSAW GOAL IS ENHANCING THE DETENTE ENVIRONMENT WHILE LEAVING THE PRESENT RELATIONSHIP OF FORCES UNAFFECTED, ACCORDING TO THESE US OFFICIALS. GELB REPORTS SEVERAL WESTERN OFFICIALS SEE SOVIET GOAL AS SEPARATING GERMANS FROM REST OF NATO, WHILE ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS SAY SOVIETS, IN HOPE OF CAPITALIZING ON ANTI-GERMAN SENTIMENT IN WESTERN EUROPE, DEMAND THAT A DISPROPORTIONATE NUMBER OF WEST GERMAN MILITARY UNITS BE DISBANDED. GELB QUOTES A COMMUNIST DIPLOMAT: THE AMERICAN-NATO PROPOSAL IS A HOAX; YOU WANT TO KEEP NEGOTIATING TO AVOID TRUE REDUCTIONS AND UNDERMINE SOVIET POSITION IN EASTERN EUROPE. GELB ADDS SOME DIPLOMATS AND OFFICIALS NOTE AREAS OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN TWO SIDES: 1, AGREED ON DEFINITION OF CENTRAL FRONT, EXCEPT FOR DISPUTE OVER HUNGARY; 2, REDUCTIONS SHOULD TAKE PLACE STEP BY STEP; 3, CONCUR ON NEED TO CONTROL TROOP MOVEMENTS AND MILITARY EXERCISES IN CENTRAL AREAS. GELB ADDS DETAILED FIGURES OF PROPOSALS ON BOTH SIDES.

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3. SCHLESINGER. BALTSUN AP REPORTS SCHLESINGER, TESTIFYING BEFORE HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE YESTERDAY SAID THAT UNLESS LARGE US MILITARY FORCES REMAINS ON DUTY WITHIN NATO, THE SOVIET UNION IS LIKELY TO SEEK MILITARY AND POLITICAL DOMINATION OVER WESTERN EUROPE. SCHLESINGER REJECTED CATEGORICALLY THE IDEA THAT TRIP-WIRE FORCE REMAIN WITHIN NATO TO DETER ANY INTENTION BY WARSAW PACT TO MOVE AGAINST WESTERN EUROPE. DESPITE IMMENSE BUDGETARY

PRESSURES WITHIN CONGRESS TO BRING HOME EUROPE-BASED TROOPS, SCHLESINGER SAID NATO MUST REMAIN CORNERSTONE OF US FOREIGN POLICY.

3A. FRIDAY WASHPOST GETLER REPORTS SCHLESINGER PLEDGED BEFORE HOUSE COMMITTEE TO MATCH RUSSIAN EFFORTS TO PROVIDE THEIR MISSILES WITH AN ABILITY TO HIT MILITARY TARGETS, BUT SAID US WAS NOT SHIFTING ITS NUCLEAR STRATEGY TO ONE GEARED TO DELIVERING A DECISIVE BLOW TO SOVIET MILITARY FORCES. SCHLESINGER TOLD COMMITTEE THAT ONLY PREVIOUS

RESPONSE TO NUCLEAR ATTACK WAS "SUICIDAL," ADDING HE THOUGHT CONGRESS AFTER IT HAS TIME TO CONTEMPLATE THOSE STARK OPTIONS OF SUICIDE OR SURRENDER WILL SUPPORT PENTAGON'S NEW PLANS. GETLER SAYS SENATORS MATHIAS AND MANSFIELD WITH 22 OTHERS, IN MOVE RELATED TO NEW ROUND OF US-SOVIET ARMS TALKS, PLAN TO INTRODUCE RESOLUTION WHICH SENATE SOURCES SAY WILL ADVOCATE REACHING EQUIVALENCE IN WEAPONRY WITH SOVIETS THROUGH MUTUAL REDUCTIONS AND THROUGH LIMITING QUALITATIVE IMPROVEMENTS IN WEAPONRY WHICH COULD CAUSE INSTABILITY AND MUTUAL FEAR.

3B. PROXMIRE IN LETTER TO NYTIMES SAID FORMER AMBASSADOR ELLSWORTH'S LETTER TO NYTIMES SPOKE ONLY OF NUMBERS OF MISSILES AND PROXMIRE GIVES CONSIDERATIONS BASED ON WAR-HEADS, ACCURACY, RELIABILITY, AND YIELD, PROXMIRE ADDING THAT NUCLEAR STRATEGY ALSO INVOLVES MANY OTHER ISSUES. PROXMIRE SAYS SCHLESINGER'S NEW STRATEGIC CONCEPTS AREN'T REALLY NEW, SINCE WE'VE BEEN TARGETING SOVI
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